

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace the paragraph at lines 6-16 of page 1 with the following:

2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Since the development of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), the demand for fast, reliable, and cost-effective tests for the detection of specific nucleic acid sequences has led to the development of a variety of new assay techniques. One of these, referred to as the INVADER™ (a trademark of Third Wave Technologies, Madison, Wisconsin) Assay, Invasion Cleavage Assay, or Invasion Assay, does not require the use of PCR. Invasion assays are highly sensitive and can be used to determine, for example, single-base differences of specific nucleotide targets. *See, e.g., Lyamichev, V., et al., Nature Biotech. 17:292-296 (1999); and Ryan, D., et al., Molecular Diag. 4(2):135-144 (1999), each of which is incorporated herein by reference.*

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 beginning at line 26 of page 3 with the following:

FIG. 1B provides an example of a target region and the cleavage structures resulting from the overlap of 0, 1, 3, 5, and 8 nucleotides and the structure of a probe and five invader oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOS. 1-7). The underlined nucleotides at the 3' end of the invader oligonucleotides indicate the extent of the overlap with the probe oligonucleotide. The labeled arrows above the probe show the cleavage points induced by each invader oligonucleotide. The star indicates a fluorescent label. *See Lyamichev, V., et al., Nature Biotech. 17:292-296 (1999).*

IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING:

Please enter the Sequence Listing submitted herewith, on two (2) numbered pages, into the instant application in accordance with 32 C.F.R. §§ 1.77(a)(15) and 1.821(c).